

**East of Byzantium:  
Syria and Armenia in the Formative Period**

Dumbarton Oaks Symposium of 1980

Following is the program of the Dumbarton Oaks Symposium held 9 to 11 May 1980, under the direction of Professors Nina G. Garsoian, Director of the Center for Armenian Studies, Columbia University; Thomas F. Mathews of the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University; and Robert W. Thomson of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University. Of the speakers listed below those designated by an asterisk amplified their papers after the Symposium for publication in a volume published by Dumbarton Oaks, with the assistance of a grant from The Suren D. Fesjian Academic Publications Fund of Columbia University, and distributed in November 1982.

**The Transmission of Classical Traditions in Syria**

Chairman: Thomas F. Mathews

Thomas F. Mathews

Institute of Fine Arts,  
New York University

Introduction

Sebastian Brock\*

The Oriental Institute,  
Oxford University

“From Antagonism to Assimilation: Syriac Attitudes to Greek Learning”

Marlia Mundell Mango\*

St. Anne’s College,  
Oxford University

“The Classical Tradition in the Art and Architecture of Northern Mesopotamia”

Sidney Griffith\*

Department of Semitic  
Languages and Institute  
of Christian Oriental  
Research, The Catholic  
University of America

“The *Scholion* of Theodore bar Kônî, a *summa* of  
Greek Ecclesiastical Philosophy and Nestorian Biblical Catechesis”

**The Persistence of Non-Hellenic Traditions in Syria and Armenia**

Chairman: Robert W. Thomson

Nina G. Garsoian\*

Center for Armenian  
Studies, Columbia University

“The Iranian Substratum of ‘Agat’angelos’”

Stephen Gero\*

Department of Religious  
Studies, Brown University

“Persian Christianity in the Fifth Century: Factional Strife and Religious Schism”

Helen Evans\*

Institute of Fine Arts,  
New York University

“Non-classical Sources for the Armenian Mosaic  
Near the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem”

Hans Drijvers\*

The Institute of Semitic Studies  
and Archaeology of the Near  
East, Groningen

“The Persistence of Pagan Cults and Practices in  
Christian Syria”

### The Syrian Self-Image

Chairman: Robert W. Thomson

Robert Murray, S. J.\*

Heythrop College,  
University of London

“The Characteristics of the Earliest Syriac Chris-  
tianity”

Aelred Cody, O. S. B.,\*

St. Meinrad Archabbey

“The Appearance and Early Use of the Octoechos  
with Syriac Texts: a Rectification of Some Com-  
monly Held Views on Its Origins”

Irfan Shahid

School of Languages and  
Linguistics, Georgetown  
University; Associate Fellow,  
Dumbarton Oaks

“The Rise of an Arab Church in Syria in the Fourth  
Century”

### The Armenian Self-Image

Chairman: Nina G. Garsoian

Robert W. Thomson\*

Department of Near Eastern  
Languages and Civilizations,  
Harvard University

“The Formation of the Armenian Literary Tradition”

Boghos Levon Zekiyan\*

Armenian Academy of San  
Lazzaro (Venice), University  
of Venice, and Center for the  
Study and Documentation of  
Armenian Culture (Milan)

“Eliše as Witness of the Ecclesiology of the Early  
Armenian Church”

Abraham Terian\*

New Testament Department,  
Theological Seminary, Andrews  
University

“The Hellenizing School: Its Time, Place, and Scope  
of Activities Reconsidered”

### The Individuality of Cultural Traditions

Chairman: Nina G. Garsoian

Thomas F. Mathews\*

Institute of Fine Arts,  
New York University

“The Early Armenian Iconographic Program of the  
Ējmiacin Gospel”

Kathleen E. McVey

Princeton Theological Seminary

“The Domed Church as Microcosm: Greek vs. Syr-  
iac Literary Roots of an Architectural Symbol”

William Macomber\*

Hill Monastic Manuscript  
Library, St. John's University  
(Collegeville, Minnesota)

“The Ancient Form of the Maronite Anaphora of  
the Apostles”

*Note:* The academic affiliations of several of the speakers have changed since the Symposium took place.